IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

LEBRE et al   Atty. Ref.:   **36-1358**

Serial No.   **Unknown**   Group:

National Phase of   **PCT/GB99/01302**

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October 4, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified

application in better condition for examination, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 4, 6 and 7, line 1 of each, delete "any preceding" and after "claim"

insert -- 1 --.

Claim 11, line 1, delete ",9 or 10".

Claim 12, line 1, delete "any one of claims 8 to 11" and insert -- claim 8 --.

Claim 15, line 1, delete "or 14".

Claim 16, line 1, delete "any one of claims 13 to 15" and insert -- claim 13 --.

Claim 18, line 1, delete "or 17".

Claim 19, line 1, delete "any one of claims 13 to 18" and insert -- claim 13 --.

Claim 23, line 1, delete "or 22".

Claim 24, line 1, delete ", 22 or 23".